634
Dipic
Indet
R24

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine

Forest Insect Laboratory
Portland, Oregon
July 17, 1941

MEMORANDUM ON EXAMINATION OF THE BLACK HILLS BEETLE CONTROL PROJECT ON THE EAST SEVIER DRAINAGE, POWELL NATIONAL FOREST JUNE 1941

R. L. Furniss

On June 29 an examination was made of part of the East Sevier control area. This examination was made in company with Mr. Clark Miles of the Regional Office, Supervisor Folster, and control project manager, Alvey. The object was to check upon the character of the control work and to determine whether the Black Hills beetle brood had developed beyond the point where it would be practical to continue control operations. Attention was concentrated upon Robinson Canyon which was traversed for its entire length.

At the time of the examination the woods were becoming quite dry which made it increasingly hazardous to burn. This hazard was accentuated by the prevalence of numerous windthrown trees, especially near the rim where treating was in progress. Treating was being done by a combination method consisting of peeling the bark to expose the brood along the main bole, and by burning the limbs and tops. The quality of this work was satisfactory, but it was pointed out that it would be advisable, considering the development of the brood, to take increased care in scattering the bark and exposing the brood in order to insure more rapid killing of the various stages.

Examination of numerous felled trees revealed that the brood had developed slightly beyond the point where maximum effectiveness of the peeling method of control could be expected. Although most of the brood consisted of larvae and pupae, there were a considerable number of callow adults and even a few fully colored adults. In spite of the advanced development of the beetles, it was evident that few, if any, of them were escaping. Careful search in the litter around typical treated trees failed to reveal any living adults. In addition, it was noted that ants were extremely active in carrying away the exposed brood, including the callow adults. Conditions were very favorable for solar treating and it was observed that brood exposed to the rays of the sun was killed within a few minutes.

Both Supervisor Folster and Mr. Alvey were agreed that a crew of 50 men could complete the project within 10 days by treating the remaining infested trees, of which there were approximately 1,000 in the area outlined for control work during the 1940-41 season. Supervisor Folster was advised that it would be entomologically sound to proceed with this work, even though it was recognized that a small percentage of the beetles probably would escape during the last part of the work. This advice was influenced by the fact that most of the infested trees had been marked, thus making them much cheaper to treat than an equal number attacked by the next generation. In addition, cleaning up the area this spring would decrease the likelihood of an increase during the summer months.

CC: Dr. Craighead (2)
R. O. (2)
Portland (1)
Fort Collins (1)